



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF
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NEWS RELEASE

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Judicial Council Approves Proposed Funding for State Trial Court Programs

Court-Appointed Counsel for Minors, Workers' Compensation

San Francisco—The Judicial Council of California today approved a proposed budget allocation of \$1.152 million in 14 trial courts for court-appointed counsel for minors in custody and visitation proceedings during the current fiscal year.

Other allocations were made for costs of workers' compensation for court employees and increased retirement costs for subordinate judicial officers.

At a public meeting later this summer, the Judicial Council will take action on proposed allocations for trial court funding for fiscal year 2005–2006 that are subject to the state appropriations limit (SAL) allocation process. In April 2005, the council adopted a new funding and allocation process for the trial courts as part of the judicial branch's annual budget procedures that ties the bulk of trial court funding to the SAL, much in the same way the Legislature is funded. This new funding process will provide more predictable and stable funding for the trial courts.

The actions were taken today at the Judicial Council's public business meeting in San Francisco. Chaired by Chief Justice Ronald M. George, the 27-member council is the policymaking body for California courts.

OTHER ACTIONS

In other actions, the Judicial Council:

- **COURT FACILITIES:** Approved a Five-Year Infrastructure Plan for Court Facilities for fiscal year 2006–2007, which establishes the capital needs of the judicial branch and sets priorities for the construction and renovation of state courthouses. Because of severely limited state funds, only three projects will be proposed for funding in the next fiscal year: (1) the Plumas-Sierra Counties

New Portola/Loyalton Court; (2) the New Antioch Court in Contra Costa County, and (3) the renovation of the B. F. Sisk Fresno Federal Court for the Superior Court of Fresno County.

- **NEW COURT OF APPEAL BUILDING:** Following an environmental impact study of the proposed new building and site for the Court of Appeal, Fourth Appellate District, Division Three (Santa Ana), the Judicial Council approved adoption of a mitigated negative declaration and mitigation monitoring and reporting plan for the appeal court project.
- **JURY INSTRUCTIONS:** Approved publication of revisions and additions to the Judicial Council's civil jury instructions of the California Rules of Court in areas including contracts, negligence, assault and battery, elder abuse, consumer warranty, and damages. The instructions were first published in September 2003 and were last amended in February 2005.
- **ELECTRONIC RECORDING:** Approved a mandatory report to the Legislature on the purchases and leases of electronic recording equipment that will be used to record superior court proceedings.
- **COURT REPORTER FEES:** Approved a mandatory report to the Legislature on the past year's court reporter fees revenue collected under Government Code section 68086(a)(1) and 68086(a)(4).
- **FAMILY LAW FACILITATORS:** Approved the revision of base allocations for the child support commissioner and family law facilitator program for fiscal year 2005–2006. Funding for these programs is provided by a cooperative agreement between the California Department of Child Support Services and the Judicial Council.

The agenda and meeting materials for today's Judicial Council meeting are available online at www.courtinfo.ca.gov/courtadmin/jc/documents/age0605.pdf.

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The Judicial Council is the policymaking body of the California courts, the largest court system in the nation. Under the leadership of the Chief Justice and in accordance with the California Constitution, the council is responsible for ensuring the consistent, independent, impartial, and accessible administration of justice. The Administrative Office of the Courts carries out the official actions of the council and promotes leadership and excellence in court administration.